

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-26 were presented for examination. Claims 1-26 were restricted as follows: claims 1-5 and 16-21 (Group I), claims 6-15 (Group II) and claims 22-26 (Group III).

In response to the restriction requirement, applicant elects with traverse Group I, which corresponds to claims 1-5 and 16-21.

The instant amendment cancels claims 6-15 and 22-26 without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected embodiments.

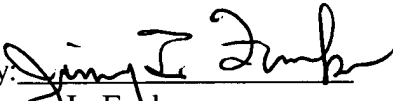
Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction with respect to Groups II and III, which correspond to claims 6-15 and 22-26 respectively. There are two criteria for a proper requirement for restriction: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the examiner. It is respectfully submitted that searching and examining the subject matter of Groups II and III as well as Group I, as outlined in the restriction requirement, does not place a serious burden on the Examiner.

Applicants have also added new claims 27-37 to more particularly point out aspects of the present application. New claims 27-37 are directed to the elected embodiment of Group I. The new claims have been carefully written to avoid any questions under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in a condition for examination. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

If there are any charges due with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

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